



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **FEDS FEAR BORDER TUNNEL USERS, BUILDERS ARE IN DANGER**

*Witnesses seeking protection told to go to ports of entry along the border*

SAN DIEGO – Less than two days after the discovery of the longest cross-border tunnel ever uncovered linking the United States and Mexico, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents say they have received information that those associated with the passageway are in grave danger.

Investigators with the San Diego Tunnel Task Force, which includes agents from ICE, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Border Patrol, say the probe is progressing swiftly. Leads received by the Task Force indicate that those who have been in the tunnel or were responsible for its design or construction may be in immediate danger.

Based on that intelligence, ICE is appealing to anyone who has knowledge of the tunnel to come to a port of entry along the Mexican border and request to speak to an ICE agent. ICE will do everything within its power to ensure these individuals' safety.

"Given the sophistication of this tunnel, it's clear that the people responsible have significant resources at their disposal," said Miguel Unzueta, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in San Diego. "There is no doubt that an organization like this will take whatever steps necessary to protect their interests, including taking human lives."

Members of the Tunnel Task Force remain on the scene today at the warehouse in an Otay Mesa industrial park that conceals the U.S. entrance to the tunnel. Under the building, is a steep shaft leading to a lighted, ventilated passageway the length of eight football fields.

The tunnel discovery is the result of a long-term investigation by the Tunnel Task Force. The Task Force is using an array of high-tech equipment and intelligence information to pinpoint the location of underground passageways along the border in the region. Since 9/11, federal authorities have discovered more than 20 cross-border tunnels along the U.S.-Mexico border in California and Arizona.

The investigation into the cross-border tunnel is ongoing and no arrests have yet been made. CBP's forensic lab is assisting with fingerprint analysis and DNA sampling. ICE's cybercrimes unit is conducting a computer forensic analysis.

# ICE #